



Rapport 3

Corporate-Higher Education Forum Newsletter

Spring/1992

REMINDER

Please return proxy and travel/meal forms

now

AGENDA FOR 1992 ANNUAL MEETING

In May 1983, several university presidents and corporate chief executives meeting at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Montreal decided there was value in formalizing an association through which they could work on issues of shared interest, for the benefit of the country.

In May 1992, a larger group of university presidents and CEO's constituting the Corporate-Higher Education Forum, will gather at Montreal's Ritz-Carlton Hotel. They will share a sense of accomplishment in work which has earned national credibility, and will plan further action on issues central to Canada's future.

This year's meeting addresses two themes:

**Education and Training for a
Changing Society
and
The University of Tomorrow**

Working sessions focus on

- defining and promoting appropriate education and training for a society experiencing rapid and extensive demographic change
- clarifying the mission of the modern university which is asked to do more with less
- understanding the need to balance environmental preservation with economic development
- assessing the status of Canada itself at a time when the future of confederation is in question.

An outstanding social and entertainment program will allow members, spouses and distinguished guests to relax in one another's company, reinforcing the personal relationships which underlie the Forum's success in building collaborative action.

MONDAY MAY 11

Monday Reception

Following registration at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel (from 5.00 p.m.), participants will gather at 6.00 p.m. for wine and hors-d'oeuvres in the Atrium of Maison Alcan, one block from the hotel. With its ninety-foot transparent ceiling and walls of glass and aluminum reflecting brick and greystone arches preserved from the historic houses of the Golden Mile, Maison Alcan is a stunning combination of architecture which has been widely honoured.

Monday Dinner

Dinner will be served at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel at 7.30 p.m. The Bell Canada and Xerox Canada Forum Awards for research and development will be announced and presented that evening. Recipients will offer their impressions based on broad experience of how collaborative R&D connects the university's mission to the business agenda.

Traditionally, the opening dinner is a formal occasion for renewing and initiating friendships with colleagues from across Canada (business or cocktail attire). Our hosts will be the four Montreal universities: Concordia, McGill, Montréal and Québec à Montréal (UQAM).

TUESDAY MAY 12

Tuesday Breakfast

Eyes will be opened at breakfast (7.30 a.m.) by Shirley Seward, CEO of the Canadian Labour Market and Productivity Centre. An outstanding demographer, she will outline the major social changes which will affect education and the economy in Canada as we move toward the next century.

Tuesday Morning Plenary

A draft Forum *statement on learning goals* for students in Canadian primary and secondary schools will be presented for approval. Stressing that young people need certain knowledge, skills and behaviours to live and work in a fast-changing world, the goals statement emphasizes a need to prepare and motivate students for lifelong learning and for entry to the workplace. Respondents to the presentation will be

Joe Freedman (parent activist) and Lorraine Flaherty (Executive Director, Canadian School Boards Association).

Creating successful partnerships through which business, universities and schools can improve student learning will be the subject of three panelists. Paul Elsner of Maricopa Community Colleges, a member of the alliance which received the 1991 Anderson Medal of the Business-Higher Education Forum as America's outstanding three-way partnership, will describe The Think Tank in Arizona. Denis Marceau will tell how the Université de Sherbrooke is working with regional businesses and schools to facilitate the transition from school to work for local students. Rosemary Campbell will explain IBM's extensive program developed with seven Forum universities to increase math and science literacy among K-12 students.

Forum symposia have been held in five cities thus far — to which might be added Peterborough where Jon Grant spoke on *To Be Our Best* before an audience of 350 at Trent University. A descriptive report on symposia in Calgary, Saskatoon, Ottawa, Montréal and St. John's will appear in the Agenda Book for the meeting and be introduced at this session.

Are the skills necessary for success in the modern workplace being developed by students in our universities? Can we define those skills more clearly and determine ways to build them into the curriculum as a complement to the acquisition of knowledge? In their *final report on the Making the Match research*, Professors Jim Rush

and Fred Evers will help us understand their findings and determine whether there is a role for the Forum in moving from research to practice.

Tuesday Lunch

Don Lenihan, editor of the *Network on the Constitution*, will speak at lunch. Through this publication, he has closely monitored developments in constitutional negotiations across the country. We can expect a current status report which will help members in their conversations on this most urgent topic.

Note: The directors decided that the proposed roundtable discussion on the constitution should be dropped from an agenda which had become overly full.

Tuesday Afternoon Plenary

More and more employers are developing education and training programs through which their employees can gain the knowledge and skills they need in a changing work environment. A report on a variety of imaginative programs through which Forum members, both university and corporate, promote employee development will be introduced for approval as a Forum Advisory.

Teaching, research and community service are the traditional three parts of the mission of the university. But can the modern university balance these three parts successfully, faced by the challenges of a changing clientele, sharply reduced funding and increased expectations? Should some traditions change with changing times, and if so, which ones? Leaders of the four Montreal universities will explain how each is responding to such questions in accordance with their different characteristics. During breaks between sessions, kiosks will offer further information on the Montreal universities.

A Forum tradition is to open the floor to "free speech" by members on recent initiatives of interest to others at the plenary

table. This session will close the Tuesday plenary.

Note: Members intending to speak at this session are asked to notify Patricia Roman in advance to ensure time on the program.

Tuesday Evening

The Bank of Montreal, celebrating its 175th birthday this year, will co-host buffet dinner (6.00 p.m.) in one of Canada's great historic buildings. Founded in 1817, the bank moved to its "new" head office in 1847. The magnificent 90-foot interior dome, striking green and mauve marble walls, gilded pillars and sculptures will provide a memorable dinner setting.

Immediately following, the Forum goes to the "big top" in Montreal harbour where the Cirque du Soleil will entertain (8.00 p.m.). This is a circus like no other, justly famed throughout the world for sophisticated and lively feats of strength, agility, humour and imagination.

WEDNESDAY MAY 13

Wednesday Breakfast

The Forum's *Annual General Meeting* will take place at 8.00 a.m. during breakfast which begins at 7.30 a.m. The agenda and documentation for this meeting at which directors are elected for the coming year and the audited report is received will form part of the Agenda Book.

Note: Members not able to attend the AGM are reminded to return their proxy forms to the Forum office.

Wednesday Morning Plenary

Special guests representing the American and Australian Forums will bring greetings and brief reports on their activities to this last plenary session at which two major themes will be discussed.

Sustainable development is a term which confuses many through its two different imperatives of environmental preservation and economic expansion. How does one reconcile them? Three panelists will tell us how important it is to do so, and Forum members will discuss what universities and businesses can do to make it happen, possibly within the Forum. David Johnston (past Chairman, National Round Table on

Environment and the Economy) will speak about the work of this organization. Howard Clark will describe what his university, Dalhousie, is doing to raise awareness and solve problems in this area. Jack MacLeod (Shell Canada) will bring an industry viewpoint, reflecting also his interest in educating children to understand what sustainable development means.

What should the university of tomorrow look like? Four panelists will outline the challenges facing higher education in this country and offer their suggestions for meeting them successfully. Brian Segal (University of Guelph) will look at the university's teaching mission which he is exploring as chairman of AUCC's task force on the Smith Report. Art May (Memorial University), formerly president of NSERC, will address the research mission of the university. John Panabaker will draw on experience in business and university affairs to reflect on the university in the community. The role of the community college in providing post-secondary education will be discussed by John Dennison (University of British Columbia). A paper by William Sibley (University of Lethbridge) in the Agenda Book will provide additional background for discussion on whether the Forum's next project should focus on this theme.

Wednesday Lunch

The closing lunch (12.30 p.m.) will be addressed by the editor-in-chief of the *Globe and Mail*, William Thorsell, whose interest in the relation between education and the economy is well known. Members can expect a challenging conclusion to the 1992 meeting through his remarks.